

New Name and New Status in Brazilian *Pteris* L. (Pteridaceae)

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During my studies involving the genus *Pteris* from Brazil (Prado, 1993) I detected two taxa which need nomenclatural and taxonomic arrangement. Thus, one new name and one new status are presented here.

NEW NAME

Pteris gracilis was described by Fée (1852) based on a specimen collected by Claussen in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro). The epithet applied by Fée is illegitimate by homonymy, according Art. 64.1 of the Berlin Code (Greuter *et al.*, 1988). However, this species is really different, and its recognition is necessary. According to Art. 7.9 of the Code, a new name can be created, based on the same type. Therefore, the new name proposed is:

***Pteris congesta* J. Prado nom. nov.**, for *P. gracilis* Fée, 5 mém.: 128. 1852, with the same type.

BASIONYM: *Pteris gracilis* Fée, 5 mém.: 128. 1852. TYPE: Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Claussen s.n. (Isotype RB!, photos K!, SPF!). nom. illeg. non Michx. (1803) nec Roxb. (1844).

Pteris congesta is characterized by 3-pinnate-pinnatifid (“congestus”) frond with the short segments, pinnae and/or segments margin clearly denticulate-ciliate, venation free with the apex of the vein projecting as a cilium at the margin, and winged rhachis and racheola (Fig. 1A, B, C, D, E, F). It is closely related to *P. leptophylla* Sw. from which it differs mainly in the frond architecture (less pinnatifid) and venation partially aerolate, with large areoles close to the costa and costule, and venation free near by the margin (Fig. 1, G, H).

Both species are terrestrial plants, living from the sea level to 1000 m elevation, and endemic to Brazil. *Pteris congesta* is restricted to the State of Rio de Janeiro and *P. leptophylla* presents a wider range of occurrence, from the State of Pernambuco to Santa Catarina.

NEW STATUS

Raddi (1819) described *Pteris tristicula* Raddi, based on specimens collected from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Raddi mentioned that this species presented “pinnis pinnatifidis et rachis alata.” During the course of a taxonomic treatment of *Pteris* from Brazil, I analyzed many collections, from different places, including material from Argentina and Paraguay, and it was possible to recognize that Raddi’s taxon represents a variety of *P. denticulata* Sw., and this new status is proposed herein:

***Pteris denticulata* Swartz var. *tristicula* (Raddi) J. Prado stat. nov.** for *Pteris tristicula* Raddi, Opusc. Sci. Bol. 3:293. 1819.

Pteris tristicula Raddi, Opusc. Sci. Bol. 3: 293. 1819. TYPE: Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Catumbi, Raddi s.n. (Holotype FI!, photos BM!, K!, SPF!; isotype BR!, photos BM!, K!, SPF!).

Litobrochia tristicula (Raddi) Presl, Tent. Pter. 149. 1836.

Pteris denticulata var. *tristicula* is characterized by winged rhachis, margin or pinnae

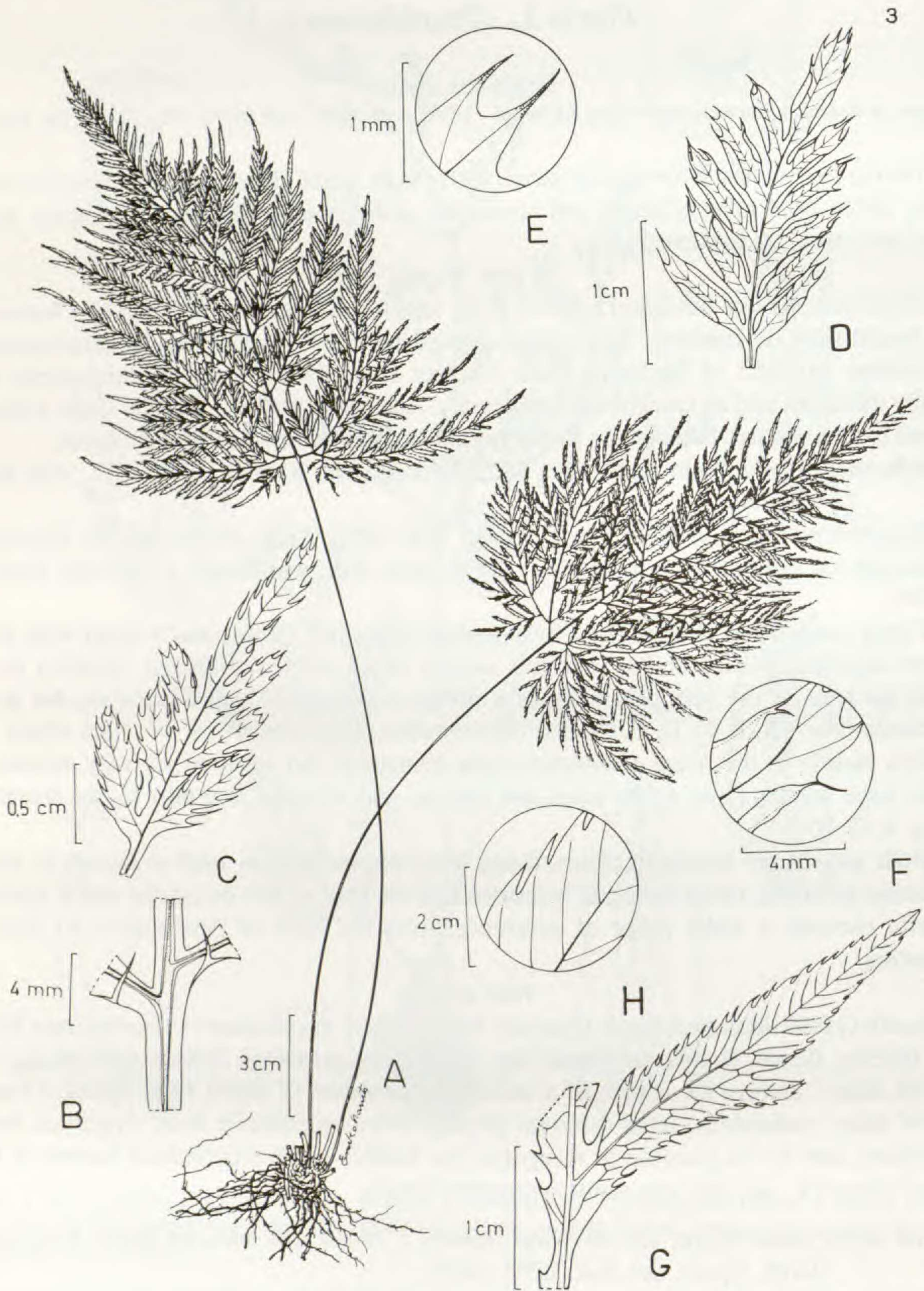


Fig. 1. A-F, *Pteris congesta* J. Prado. A, habit. B, winged rhachis. C-D, sterile and fertile pinnae, respectively. E-F, details of pinnae (sterile and fertile, respectively) showing the denticulate-ciliate margins and the free venation. G-H, *P. leptophylla* Sw. G, sterile segment, showing the partially areolate venation. H, detail of the segment margin denticulate.

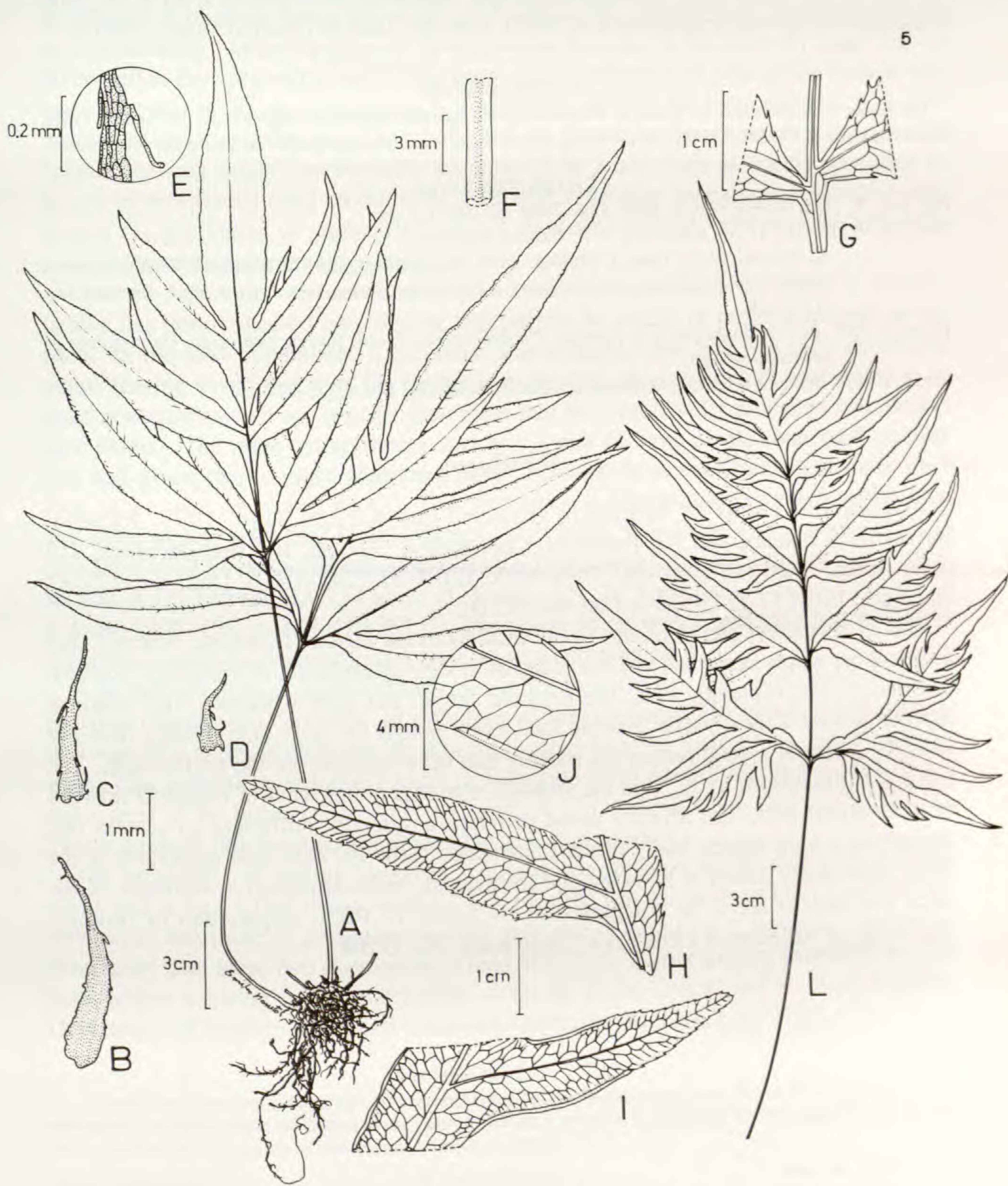


Fig. 2. A-J, *Pteris denticulata* Sw. var. *denticulata*. A, habit. B, C, D, rhizome scales. E, detail of the cells of a rhizome scale. F, stipe. G, winged rhachis. H-I, venation of sterile and fertile fronds, respectively. J, detail of the frond margin. L, var. *tristricula* (Raddi) J. Prado, habit.

denticulate, and basal, median, apical pinnae pinnatifid, mainly at basioscopic side (Fig. 2, G, H, I, L). The last character differ it from the variety *denticulata*.

The variety *tristicula* is represented by terrestrial or rupicolous plants growing in forest of island and mountainous regions of Brazil and Argentina, from the sea level to ca. 1000 m elevation. It is widely distributed in Brazil, from the State of Ceará to Santa Catarina.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Review

Scandinavian Ferns by Benjamin Øllgaard and Kirsten Tind. 1993. Rhodos, International Science and Art Publisher, Copenhagen. 317 pp, 103 line drawings, 114 color plates. Folio (25 x 34 cm). Paperback, ISBN 87-7245-530-6, Dan. Kr. 375.00; Hardback, ISBN 87-7245-532-2, Dan. Kr. 425.00.

The 72 species of pteridophytes in the Scandanavian region (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) are amply described and discussed as to their systematics, morphology, ecology, distribution, and economic uses. The keys are simple and quite workable. The technical aspects provide a most useful floristic tool, even though the large size renders field-use unlikely. There is a good reason for making this book suitable for the coffee-table. The full-color illustrations by K. Tind are visually stunning, reminiscent of botanical artwork of generations past. The artwork alone provides a splendor sufficient to sustain one throughout a long winter. Many of the illustrations show the habit and associates of the ferns, particularly useful in knowing and locating the more diminutive members of the flora. The authors are to be congratulated. — JAMES H. PECK, Department of Biology, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204.